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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS,

RELATING TO THE

COUNTY OF BROOME

IN THE STATE OF

NEW YORK.

DELIVERED AT BINGHAMTON, JULY 3, 1876,

BY

GEORGE BURR, M. D.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

BINGHAMTON:

CARL, STOPPARD & CO., STEAM JOB PRINTERS.

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RELATING TO THE

COUNTY OF BROOME,

BY

GEO. BURR, M. D.

To my Fellow Citizens of the County of Broome:

It having been recommended by a joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, addressed to the people of the States, "that they assemble in their several Counties or Towns on the Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence; and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said County or Town, from its foundation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed in print or manuscript in the Clerk's Office of said County, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first Centennial of their existence,"—and the same having been promulgated by the President of the United States, by proclamation bearing date "the 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1876, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth,"—at the request of the appropriate Committee for making arrangements for this celebration, I have undertaken this duty; and I now rise to submit for your considera-

tion, though in a manner somewhat desultory, such historical incidents and facts as I have been able to collect, relative to the early settlement and to the subsequent development of this County.

A history of the County of Broome for the last century would include every change in its condition from that of a wild waste and an untamed forest to that of its present highly cultivated condition. One hundred years ago to day, the area of land now included within the boundaries of this County was an unbroken wilderness—a region of solitude undisturbed by the footsteps of man, save now and then by a party of red men, engaged in hunting or intent upon the war path. Its present cultivated hills, and its rich productive valleys, were then covered with the primeval forests, through which roamed the panther, the bear, the wolf, the deer, and other species of wild animals. This entire region was then the hunting grounds of various tribes of Indians, chiefly of the Six Nations, who, as you well know, had their villages and council fires in the central portion of our State. Here likewise may have been encountered parties of the Algonquin tribes, from the central portion of Pennsylvania. There were no lodges nor permanent villages in this part of the country, unless, perhaps, one at Ouquaga. We hear of the old Indian castle situate within a few miles of this place, but there is no evidence or reason to believe that it was in any way used as a permanent residence, as were the villages of the Iroquois nations in another section of the State.

We cannot inquire, for we have no records or legends to inform us, of what may have transpired in the solitude of the wilderness while the savage tribes held sway. And yet the imagination will picture before the mind scenes of thrilling personal adventure, perhaps of intense suffering, of cruel practices

—the torture of prisoners, and the exciting and hazardous chase, which under the shadow of the dense forest may have been enacted in localities we daily visit. Our very dwellings even may stand upon sites where some luckless Indian captive in years gone by has suffered all the tortures which the refined cruelty of the red man so well knew how to inflict.

In order fully to comprehend the mighty change which a century has wrought, we must not confine our view to the comparatively small space which our County only occupies; but we must remember that one hundred years ago the entire settlements and population of the State of New York were confined to a belt of Counties on each side of the Hudson River, extending from the Island of Manhattan to the mouth of the Mohawk, and from thence extending up the valley of that river a distance not exceeding sixty miles. From the mouth of the Mohawk, northwardly, there was a chain of communication to the head of Lake George, thence down the Lake through Lake Champlain to Montreal. This communication was the old route during the French war, and at first was strictly a line of military posts, such as Fort Edward, Fort William Henry and Fort Ticonderoga. After the close of the French war, settlements to a greater or less extent were scattered along the route, though they were very feeble, and in many respects defenceless.

Passing up the Mohawk, standing on what is now the village of Rome, was Fort Stanwix, then the farthest outlying, and the remotest military post in the State. It guarded the portage between the Mohawk river and the Oneida Lake, so that communication might be kept open between the settlements and Lake Ontario.

In the region south of the Mohawk and west of the Hudson river tier of Counties, extending to the Lakes, an unbroken

wilderness—one waste of woods and sky—was only to be seen. True, there was at Cherry Valley, and I think at Harpersfield, now in Delaware County, small settlements, which had recently been commenced, but they were early in the war destroyed by the Indians under Brandt. In no other portion of this vast region could a white man be found.

The County of Broome was organized by an Act of the Legislature passed March 28th, 1806, and was formed from Tioga County. It was named in honor of JOHN BROOME, then Lieut. Governor—Morgan Lewis being Governor of the State. In response to this compliment, Lieut. Governor Broome had designed, prepared and presented to the County, the silver seal long in use at the Clerk's Office, and which I in common with other former Clerks, have so often employed in attesting papers. The beautiful design still remains the seal of this County, though I believe it became necessary some years ago to have it engraved upon a new block.

I have said that our County was taken from a portion of Tioga County, of which, until that time, it had formed a part. The better to understand the manner and order in which the counties were organized, it may be well to call attention to the fact that at the beginning of the Revolution the County of Montgomery, then called Tryon County, extended westwardly and southwestwardly to an indefinite extent; the whole territory of Central and Southern New York being included in its undefined limits. From the southwestern portion of this region the County of Tioga was erected in 1791. At the time of its organization it included within its territory all of what is now the County of Broome, a portion of the County of Chenango, a portion of Tompkins, and the whole of Chemung. It will be seen from this statement that the two principal cities in the Southern Tier were once in the same County; and it may be

further stated that courts were held for the County in both places, a part of the time at Chenango Point, now Binghamton, and at other times at Newtown, now Elmira. In 1806 the County of Broome was erected from the eastern portion of this territory. At that time it not only included the territory now within its boundaries, but also the towns of Owego and Berkshire in Tioga County. These two towns remained attached to the County of Broome until 1821, when they were set back to the County of Tioga. It was while these two towns were a part of Broome County that the following incident occurred: A citizen of Chenango Point was a candidate before the people for some County office, and desirous of success as a matter of course, he sent a friend over into Berkshire for the purpose of advancing his interests by calling upon the voters and asking their support. After an absence of three or four days the friend returned and reported that he had seen all the voters, that the prospect was very favorable, and that everything was all right. The election took place, and when the returns were received it was found that the candidate in this place had received but one vote in the entire town. Meeting his *quondam* friend the next day he dryly observed to him that "there must have been *one* man over in Berkshire that he did *not* see."

At the time of the organization of the County, the territory now comprising it consisted only of the towns of Union, Lisle and Chenango. The town of Union extended from the Pennsylvania line to the south line of the town of Lisle and comprised what are now the towns of Vestal, Union and Maine. The town of Lisle was wont to be called the *State* of Lisle, on account of its great extent of territory. It included the present towns of Nanticoke, Lisle, Triangle and Barker. The remaining portion of the County was known as the town of Chenango. This, for a single town, was a large territory, for it included

every acre east of the Chenango river and a strip of land on its west side a mile or more in width, and which extended to the Pennsylvania line. One year thereafter, however, the town of Windsor was erected. This new town included within its limits what are now the towns of Windsor, Colesville and Sanford. The towns of Colesville and Sanford were formed from Windsor on the 2d day April, 1821. Vestal was next separated from Union in January, 1823, and Conklin from Chenango in March, 1824. A part of Windsor was taken off in March, 1824, and a further portion was annexed to Conklin from Windsor in 1851. Nanticoke, Triangle and Barker were formed out of the old State of Lisle in 1831 ; Maine from Union in 1848 ; the towns of Binghamton and Port Crane (the latter now changed to Fenton) from Chenango in December, 1855 ; and Kirkwood from Conklin in November, 1859.

The City of Binghamton was included in the old town of Chenango, and for all town purposes was a portion of that town and the more recently erected town of Binghamton, until it was chartered a city. It was first incorporated a village, with certain municipal powers, in May, 1834, since which time, under various amended charters, it remained an incorporated village until April 9, 1867, when, by an act of the Legislature, its corporate character was changed to that of a city.

The County of Broome is centrally situate in the southern tier of Counties in the State of New York, bordering on the State of Pennsylvania. Its southern boundary is the Pennsylvania line ; on the east it is bounded mostly by the County of Delaware ; on the north by the Counties of Chenango and Cortland ; and on the west by the County of Tioga. Its area contains about eight hundred square miles.

Topographically considered, it has a southern inclination. Its surface is a succession of hills and valleys. The ranges of

hills and most of the valleys have a direction from south to north. The hills are what are known as the Alleghany table lands—the dwindling away of that range of high mountains in the State of Pennsylvania, in a north-easterly direction, to disappear at the southern border of the Mohawk valley, or to terminate in the Catskill range, on the west of the Hudson river.

The drainage of the County, with the exception of a part of the Town of Sanford, is to the Susquehanna river. This river enters the County from the north-east, and takes a southerly direction for about twenty-five miles, when it leaves the County as well as the State, and enters Pennsylvania. It soon, however, as if conscious of its inability to break through the barrier of mountains which stand directly in its way, changes its direction to the west for some ten miles, when, as if discouraged likewise in that direction, it turns again to the north, and reenters the County of Broome. This is the Great Bend of the Susquehanna River.

The Susquehanna now seems better satisfied, for after keeping a northerly course for about ten miles it changes again to the west, when after being reinforced by the Chenango River at the point where we are now assembled, and farther on by the Nanticoke and Owego Creeks, it at length receives the Chemung River, when, as if conscious of its increased volume and power, it boldly approaches the mountains through which it now makes its way to the Wyoming Valley.

The other principal rivers and streams of the County are the Chenango River from the north-east, the Tioughnioga River from the north-west, the Otselic River, which occupying a middle situation, empties into the Tioughnioga at Whitney's Point, and the Nanticoke Creek in the western part of the County.

The settlement of the County by the whites did not begin until some years after the close of the Revolutionary War—and then there seemed to be a simultaneous movement to occupy lands in different parts of the County.

Capt. Joseph Leonard has the reputation of being the first white man who settled within its boundaries. He came into the Chenango valley in the year 1787. It is true that some years before this, three or four white persons had been sent out by Rev. Jonathan Edwards, then I believe of Northampton, Mass., among whom was his own son, to the Indian settlement at Ouquaga, now Windsor, for the purpose of studying the habits, acquiring the manners, and learning the language of the Indians, with a view to future missionary efforts in their behalf; and that they remained at Ouquaga for two or three years. These persons, however, were not settlers in any sense of the word.

Following the settlement of Chenango by Capt. Leonard in 1787, Ouquaga, Lisle and Union appear to have been settled the year after. At Ouquaga the first pioneers were John Doolittle, David Hotchkiss and John Garnsey. At Lisle, or its vicinity, the first settler seems to have been one Lampeer, followed the next year by Gen. John Patterson, one of the original members of the Boston Company, and shortly after by Ebenezer Tracy, Edward Edwards and David Manning. At Union and its immediate neighborhood came Joshua Mersereau, John Mersereau, Gen. Oringh Stoddard, Capt. William Brink, Moses Chambers, Ezekiel Crocker, Oliver Crocker, Amos Patterson, Medad Bradley, Elisha Bradley, Daniel Seymour, David Barney, Daniel Price, and others.

These points formed the *nuclei* of more extended settlements and larger improvements. Slowly and by degrees, as the years

passed by, the number of settlers in the vicinity of these places increased, the forests gave way before them, and improved land began to be seen. The smoke, rising from the log huts of settlers, could be observed above the tree tops in different directions, and the resounding blows of the woodman's axe and the crash of falling trees, gave evidence of a sturdy purpose to overcome the obstacles of the forest, and to bring out and utilize the resources of the land.

One might here stop and inquire, what influences induced so many to leave the comparatively cultivated portions of the eastern States, and take up with the rude manners, the great inconveniences and the imminent dangers of a frontier life, such as the first settlers of our own County encountered. In answer it may be remarked, that a man usually turns his face from the old to the new. Some indescribable influence excites him to adventure, and in this way large masses of men are impelled forward to bring about results, or, if you so please to term it, the designs of Providence, without their knowing why or wherefore, or being aware of the consequences, however momentous, that may depend upon their movements. The tide of humanity from its earliest period has been directed from the rising towards the setting sun. The Asiatics went west to people Europe; Eneas went west when, after the sack of Troy, he sought a new home, and laid the foundations of the lofty walls of Rome: the Saxons went west to conquer the Britons; Columbus also sailed west to discover America; and the people of this country have, from its first settlement, been pushing forward in the same direction, until now their progress has been arrested only by the waves of the Pacific Ocean. The idea of "go west, young man," is thousands of years older than the life-time of Horace Greeley.

The most efficient cause that invited immigration into this County was undoubtedly the efforts of those who had obtained

grants or patents of land. It had been, many years before, the policy of the Home Government, for the Crown to issue grants of extensive tracts of land—the Van Rensselaer and the Livingston grants being examples. The Colonial Government did the same, and the State, after assuming the functions of an Independent Power, followed the same practice. Grants or patents of large tracts of land were consequently issued to various persons, who after having procured the proper surveys, invited purchasers to buy and to settle upon their lands. It is from these sources—these land patents—that the land titles in our County are derived.

The most extensive grant of land in the County was to an association of men in Massachusetts, called the Boston Company, who purchased a tract situate between the Chenango River and the Owego Creek, containing about 230,000 acres. This tract has been known and referred to in deeds of conveyance as the Boston Purchase. There were several townships into which a part of the purchase was divided—the townships of Chenango and Nanticoke being within the County of Broome. The northern portion of the purchase is known as the "Grand Division," so that the deeds of the present landholders in that part of the County describe the land as such and such lots either in the Chenango township, the Nanticoke township, or in the Grand Division of the Boston Purchase. A large proportion of the settlers upon the Boston Purchase were Massachusetts people, and were induced undoubtedly to take up lands there through the influence of the proprietors, one of whom, Gen. John Patterson, set the example by locating at or near what is now Whitney's Point.

The next patent, and perhaps the first in importance on account of its location, was that granted to William Bingham, a merchant of Philadelphia. This was a strip of land one mile

wide on each side of the river, extending up and down the valley of the Susquehanna. The City of Binghamton is built upon land included in this patent, and the City bears the name of the original patentee. Bingham-ton is the name of this City. The interpolation of the odious *p*, which is often made in writing the word, does injustice to the original proprietor of the land, and to a certain extent a benefactor of the place. Hence the sensitiveness of our people upon this point.

Mr. Bingham, as has been remarked, when he came into possession of this patent, was a merchant of Philadelphia, but, about the year 1800, he left there and returned to England, where he shortly after died. By his will his lands were placed in the hands of five trustees, who assumed the charge, and they have since executed the deeds of conveyance to purchasers. Two of these trustees were the firm of Baring Brothers, in London, Alexander Baring, afterwards Lord Ashburton, and Henry Baring, his brother. They both married daughters of Mr. Bingham.

The patent bordering on Mr. Bingham's on the east, or up the valley, is known as Thomas' Patent ; on the west, down the river, we come to a tract purchased by Hooper and Wilson, and the patent bears their name. This extends to the Tioga County line.

On the north of Bingham's Patent, and east of the Chenango River, is the tract known as Clinton and Melcher's Patent. Farther north is that granted to Jay and Rutherford. Harpur's Patent is situate in and about the villages of Nineveh, Harpursville and Centerville, and down the river beyond is Hammond's Patent. Nichol's Patent lies east of the Susquehanna, between Windsor and Deposit. There are other and smaller patents of land granted by the State situate in this County, but the foregoing constitute the most important ones.

Mr. Robert Harpur, the proprietor of Harpur's Patent, likewise set the example of living upon the lands he had purchased, and which he offered to settlers. The grant of land containing 20,000 acres was made to him in 1786, and in 1795 he removed with his family from the City of New York, where he had been a Professor in King's (now Columbia) College, to take up his residence in the rude settlements of the frontier. He had likewise filled the office of Deputy Secretary of State, and he is usually spoken of as Secretary Harpur. He was the father of the late John Warren Harpur, Robert Harpur and Mrs. Rev. Dr. Andrews, all of whom were well known to our older citizens.

The first settlers of this County came from different parts of the country. Those who took up land in the Boston Purchase were, as has been remarked, generally from the State of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Vermont each had their representatives here. Another class came from the eastern counties of this State, and from New York City.

The character of the early settlers of this County did not vary much from that which usually characterizes all frontiersmen. Almost every locality had its "Billy Kirby," and very many each its "Squire Doolittle;" and occasionally one would meet with a "Richard Jones." The great mass of those who first settled the County came for the purpose of "bettering their condition," and were men and women of strong determination and will. The land they had taken up they proposed not only clear and fit for cultivation, but to pay for it, and to own the homes they had chosen in the new settlements. Their houses and barns were generally built of logs; but these, when they were properly constructed, were very warm and comfortable. The houses usually were built with but one room, which answered the purposes of parlor, bedroom and kitchen. A large fire-place usually occupied the whole of one side of the house. This, when well

filled with blazing wood, as was always the case on a winter's evening, cast a cheerful glow and a pleasing warmth over the entire household, and often afforded sufficient light for the various employments of the family. One of my first *essais* in life was to teach a common school in a district which had not then put off its frontier character. The school house was built of logs, and so were most of the dwellings of the residents, and as usual constructed with only one room. In one corner of the room was the bed occupied by the husband and wife; in the corner opposite was the bed of the schoolmaster; and between the two was a trundle bed for the children.

The houses of the settlers were seldom in close proximity to each other; often there would be a distance of a mile or more between the nearest neighbors. The means of communication between neighboring dwellings at first were only foot-paths through the woods, or if any attempt had been made towards constructing a road, it was only to cut away the trees and brush so that a team of oxen could pass.

The settler, on taking up his land, first made an opening in the forest, whereon he could erect his "log cabin." This accomplished, he proceeded to enlarge the opening by falling the surrounding trees, and in due time sufficient space was obtained, or, in the parlance of the day, a "clearing" was commenced. To get rid of the superfluous wood, the trunks of the trees were cut into suitable lengths, drawn together into large piles and set on fire. This was the process of *logging*.

While the husband and father was thus engaged in subduing the forest, the wife and mother had no less important duties on her hands. It was her province to bear the children, to take the best care of them she could, to prepare the food, to manufacture the material of which their clothing was made.

and generally to make the garments for the entire family. These garments probably were not always of a quality and fashion to excite the admiration of a Chesterfield or of a Beau Brummell: but they answered every necessary purpose, and long before one of them was cast aside as worn out, it presented, from frequent patching of its most exposed parts, a decidedly variegated appearance: and very often, from this cause, the attire of both men and women assumed as great a variety of hues as did Joseph's coat of many colors.

It must be remembered, that at this time the cotton gin had not been invented: that the reign of this product had not then commenced. India cottons were 60 or 70 cents per yard, and the settlers were too poor to buy them for ordinary or everyday wear. The usual fabric for summer use—the *drap d'ete'* of the woods—was made of tow, and was manufactured in the house. A tow shirt and trowsers, with sometimes a loose frock of the same material, constituted a full pioneer dress. For fall and winter clothing, if the wolves spared sheep enough to furnish a supply of wool, a piece of woolen cloth, likewise spun and woven in the house, was prepared. A portion of this was finished at the cloth dresser's, by being colored and pressed, for the use of the women: the rest, by the process of fulling, was made into thicker and stronger cloth for the purposes of the men. Usually the scanty supply of the material, and the difficulty and labor by which it was obtained, rendered the modern resort of a "pull back" to display the outlines of one's form quite unnecessary. There was no redundant material for the display of panniers or other devices of fashion: no time to put it on, and no opportunity to exhibit it.

The means of subsistence of the early settlers, though not in great variety, were ample. The forests were full of game, and the streams abounded in fish. Were it not for these provisions

of nature, the people must have suffered for food. It was the work of some years to bring the land under sufficient cultivation to produce the quantity requisite to supply the wants of a family. It was likewise at one time forty miles to a mill capable of grinding grain into flour; the distance to be traversed on foot or by canoe. If the meat of any domestic animal was at any time used, it was generally salted pork, purchased at some store, a few pounds at a time. Of fruits there were none, except such as grew wild—berries in their season, and wild grapes. A little patch, cultivated among the stumps with a hoe, would yield a scanty supply of potatoes, turnips, cabbage, &c. Tea was, perhaps, the only luxury indulged in at the table. This the good frontier matrons thought they *must* have, to solace their griefs and to exhilarate their spirits. But not all could afford even this, and substitutes were often resorted to, such as infusions of sage, and of the young and tender leaves of the birch. Sugar was early obtained by boiling the sap of the hard or sugar maple, (*acer saccharinum;*) the season for making it being the early spring. The sap was collected by cutting a small notch in the tree, adjusting a spout, and in this way conducting it into pans or buckets, placed at the foot of the tree. The sap was boiled down until the sugar would "grain," as they termed it—*i. e.*, until the extractive matter became solidified by the evaporation of all the water which it contained. Sugar making was a season of hard work, yet it gave opportunity for many pleasant gatherings, especially to the younger people. Parties assembled when "sugaring off," were as enjoyable then as are the picnics and croquet amusements of the present day.

In the absence of hay, animals were subsisted upon coarse straw, and by *browsing*, which consisted in cutting down soft maple trees during the latter part of the winter, and allowing

the cattle to eat the tender twigs and the swollen leaf buds. In severe winters the whole time of the settler would be taken up in efforts to keep from starvation his stock of animals—generally a few sheep, a yoke of oxen and perhaps a cow.

These were some of the hardships and privations suffered more or less by the pioneer settlers of this County. But they came here with brave hearts, strong arms and ready hands, and it is to the indomitable courage, the hardy industry and the unflinching determination which they brought with them, that the wilderness has been transformed, and that the fertile valleys and well cultivated hills of our County present the pleasing aspect of to-day. All honor to the memory of the pioneer settlers; for who of our modern young men would shoulder his axe and go forth to encounter and subdue the wilderness?

"'Tis fitting we should cherish their remembrance ever just,
Their heroic toil, and stoic, and their high hopes and holy trust!
They the sons of pilgrim fathers, who had dared the wintry wave,
Triumphed o'er the foe and famine, with stern souls and spirits brave."

The habits of the frontier people were of a social and kind nature, so far as their remote residences and incessant occupations would permit. A sense of mutual dependence upon each other under very many circumstances seemed to prevail, which effectually suppressed all attempts to get up feuds or quarrels. The security of life in the settlements, a necessity for making common cause in defence of each other, and many other personal rights and privileges, were dependent upon a united sentiment and the cordial co-operation of the settlers. Hence they cultivated friendly and neighborly relations, took a warm interest in each other's affairs, and when necessary rendered prompt assistance on all occasions of emergency. A practice prevailed of helping each other when one had a heavy piece of work to accomplish. For instance, if one of the settlers had a

large logging on hand, which he was unable to do alone on account of shortness of help or an insufficient team, he felt at liberty to appoint a day and invite all his neighbors, far and near, to come with their teams to his assistance. This they always did, and a half day's work by all hands would accomplish more for the settler than he could do in a month single handed. It was the same when one wished to put up a log house or barn, work which he could not perform alone. His neighbors would turn out to his assistance, and in a few hours the heavy work would be completed. In putting up a log building it was necessary to cut notches in the end of each log to fit corresponding notches in the log below and above. A chopper, therefore, to each corner was always selected to perform this work. This was the post of honor on such occasions, and the chopper who first got up his corner was the champion of the day. These gatherings were termed *bees*. They were always occasions of hilarity and good feeling—the inevitable whisky jug was always present, and the affair terminated by a supper of such quality, and served in such style, as the circumstances would allow.

The sources of information to the settlers were very scanty. They had but few books—perhaps a Bible, and some scattering volumes which they had picked up. Of newspapers they had none. Information of what was transpiring in any part of the world could only be obtained by the accidental arrival of some new adventurer, or from some settler who, after making his way back to his old place of residence, had again returned to his new home. Their social gatherings were characterized by an interchange of news, such as one might hear in one direction, and another in a different one, which, with a rehearsal of their own local and domestic affairs, formed the chief subjects of conversation. Information of current events seldom if ever

reached the frontier settlements. There were no post routes nor post offices for several years after the settlements were commenced, and it was long before any regular postal communication was established, and not oftener then than once in two weeks. To us, who in an hour can receive the result of a political convention at Cincinnati or St. Louis by means of telegraphic connection, it appears almost incredible that stirring events and important movements should take place and a portion of the people remain in entire ignorance of them. The news of the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker's Hill did not reach the remote settlements until long after those engagements had taken place.

There were and could be no schools in the new settlements. In fact at the time when the settlements were first made in this section, the State had taken no action to provide for the instruction of the children within its jurisdiction. It had organized a University, had chartered Colleges and Academies, but had adopted no measures to promote a system of general instruction. It was not until 1795 that any action was taken upon this subject. And when measures providing for public schools were carried into effect, they were entirely inoperative in the new settlements. The population was so sparse, the distance, always through dense woods, too great for small children to assemble in any number, while the larger ones could be made useful in various ways at home or in the clearings. The first settlers consequently were deprived of the means of educating their children, and many of them came to adult years unable to read and write. I myself had an elder relative who came to manhood under such circumstances, and who on his reaching the age of 21 years went back to Connecticut, from whence he had been brought when a young child, and entering a district school began his course of instruction by learning the letters of the English alphabet.

It must not be presumed, however, that the minds of the young settlers were complete blanks in information on account of the want of instruction in schools. On the contrary many of them were well educated in all matters pertaining to the situation in which they were placed. They were well versed in the woods, were usually expert with the rifle and the fishing rod. To bring down a deer while dashing through the thick brush was not a very uncommon or extraordinary exploit. The manufacture, and especially the repairing of their farming tools, working in iron as blacksmiths, dressing the skins of animals and making them into garments, moccasins, &c., and the construction of their buildings, were frequently performed by those whose only instruction and handicraft was the result of their own ingennity and practical observation. If they were ignorant of the histories of Herodotus and Livy, or knew nothing of the problems of Euclid, they could fall a tree wherever they wanted it to lie, and could judge of the effect of the wind upon a rifle ball at 30 rods, with as much accuracy as if they had been educated at West Point.

From the first settlement of the valley of the Chenango, an impression seemed to prevail that a village at or near the confluence of the two rivers must, from the nature of the locality, be inevitable; but the precise point where it would be laid out was not fully determined upon. A little cluster of dwellings had been erected a mile and a-half up the Chenango River, above the foot of Mount Prospect, and the general impression was that there the new village would be built. But as the land at that point did not appear to be properly fitted for the purposes of a village, other influences prevailed.

Mr. Bingham very naturally desired that the site of the proposed town should be located on his patent, and through the influence of Joshua Whitney, then a young man and business

agent for Mr. Bingham, the removal was accomplished. By general consent the present site of Binghamton was determined upon—the ground was cleared of brush and logs by the united efforts of the people, they making a *bee* for that purpose. The street now known as Water street was laid out, and building was soon commenced. This was in 1799, and the new village thus begun was named CHENANGO VILLAGE. This was the *nucleus* of Binghamton. A few buildings were erected on Water street, stores were opened, mechanics' shops were built, and also a tavern by Lewis Keeler, where the Cafferty House now stands. When the County was organized, in 1806, the village became the County seat, and the erection of a Court House and Jail and Clerk's Office soon followed.

It is now proper that I should allude briefly to certain individuals, who not only laid the foundations of Binghamton, but who largely contributed to its growth and to its subsequent prosperity.

First and foremost of all was the late Gen. JOSHUA WHITNEY. He came here with his father about the year 1788, a young man only 18 years of age. Here he grew to maturity, and entered upon the active business of life. Some years after, I think about the year 1800, Mr. Bingham appointed him his agent, and entrusted to him his interests in the patent of which he was the proprietor. From that time Mr. Whitney was the ruling spirit of the place. He entered ardently into his work, became an active business man in the new village, opened a store, erected a dwelling house, and in every project of a public character or interest he was first and foremost. His influence was powerful, and was always exerted to promote what he believed to be the best interests of the people. In his manner he was somewhat *brusque*, and was positive in enforcing what his judgment told him was right ; yet he was kind of heart and

generous in nature. Many of the early settlers were greatly benefited by the aid and comfort which he not unfrequently afforded them, under some adverse or embarrassing circumstances.

I only knew Gen. Whitney in the later years of his life, when he had long been retired from business. But even then he retained more or less of his former influence, and was every where treated by his fellow citizens with evidences of the greatest respect and veneration. Gen. Whitney represented this County in the Assembly during its fortieth session—1816-17.

Jacob McKinney appears to have been the next most prominent business man who early located at Chenango Village. He came from Northumberland County, Pa., making his way up the river in a boat loaded with goods. He opened a store, and soon after formed a co-partnership with Gen. Whitney, and entered with zeal into all the projects for building up the new village. He was one of the first on the ground, and his efforts began with the earliest. He served as Sheriff and County Clerk of this County.

Christopher Eldredge is also entitled to special mention in this connection. He came into this section of the country from Stonington, Conn., in 1801, and in 1806 commenced business as a merchant, and for more than fifty years was one of the most prominent business men in Binghamton. Mr. Eldredge died less than twelve years ago in the 81st year of his age, and his memory is yet cherished and honored by those who knew him in his life time, and who are now enjoying the advantages which he contributed so much towards securing.

Following the three persons just mentioned, came other active business men and mechanics, who bought lots, opened their stores, built their shops, and gave to the new village an air of

industry and thrift. The names of some of these men may be here mentioned as those who laid the foundations and commenced the superstructure of our present City. The limits of this sketch, however, will not allow me to enter into details of the personal history of each individual. One general remark applies to them collectively. They were mostly young men with the world before them, adventurous, hardy and enterprising. These names I will now give; they are as follows:

Lewis Keeler.	John Townley,
Zenas Pratt,	Henry T. Shipman,
Selah Squires,	William Woodruff,
James Squires,	Benjamin Sawtelle,
David Brownson,	Lewis St. John.
Myron Merrill,	James C. Smead,
John B. McIntosh,	Col. John Stone,
Marshall Lewis,	Augustus Morgan.
Jeremiah Campbell.	Samuel Smith,
Julius Page,	Richard Mather.
Henry Mather.	Martin Hawley.
Gilbert Tompkins,	Isaac Tompkins.
Thomas Evans.	James Evans,
Samuel Peterson.	Hazard Lewis.
Joseph B. Abbott,	Stephen Weed,
Oliver Ely,	Levi Dimmick.
William Wentz,	Virgil Whitney,
Vincent Whitney,	Franklin Whitney.

Most of these men have passed away. "Life's fitful fever over," they now rest from their labors, amidst the scenes of their early toil:

"By the river golden storied with their worth and virtues tried."

A few of them remain, however, and are now our oldest and

most respected citizens. Chief among the living is the venerable SAMUEL PETERSON, now nearly 85 years of age, who, notwithstanding his years, daily walks our streets with the briskness of youth, and with the elastic step of a boy. It would trouble most men twenty years younger to keep pace with him now.

VIRGIL WHITNEY, eldest son of Gen. Joshua Whitney, still lives among us, a revered and venerable citizen, now in the 81st year of his age. He was born and reared here, amid the scenes and incidents of early pioneer life. He has witnessed the entire transformation of the County from a wilderness to a rich and cultivated section; has seen all its changes; has been instrumental in promoting its interests and in securing its present superior advantages; and through a long and active life has contributed his share to the advancement and prosperity of the County.

RICHARD MATHER, Col. JOS. B. ABBOTT, WILLIAM WENTZ, and CHARLES W. SANFORD still remain to recount their early experience in frontier life, and to tell, not how fields, but how fortunes, were won. The life of each of these citizens has been passed in the successful prosecution of business, adding by their efforts to the material wealth of the locality, and transposing crude material into useful and valuable products.

The professions were early represented in the settlement of the County, and, it is claimed, contributed their full share to its permanent advancement.

Of the lawyers who first came into the County may be mentioned Daniel LeRoy, David Rogers, Horace Williston, Mason Whiting, and William Stuart. These were all able men and good lawyers. They came here during the years from 1801 to 1805. The three first named, after residing here for several

years, removed to other places: Mr. Whiting and Judge Stuart remained, entered into active business, spent their lives here, and their graves are now in our midst. In 1809 Mr. John A. Collier, then a young lawyer fresh from the law school at Litchfield, Conn., located here: George Park came about 1810; Gen. Thomas G. Waterman followed in 1813: Peter Robinson in 1821: and Daniel S. Dickinson in 1831. William Seymour located for the practice of law at Windsor as early as 1805. These were the leading lawyers who cast their fortunes in this County at its beginning and during its earlier period. They were all men of education, refinement and ability. The bar of the County was noted for its strong men, especially Mr. Collier, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Dickinson. All achieved at least the meed of fame, and served the County in various offices. Mr. Whiting represented the County in the Assembly of 1816, and was District Attorney from 1831 to 1837.

Mr. John A. Collier held the office of District Attorney for the County from 1818 to 1822. He was a Representative in the 22d Congress from this District, and was Comptroller of the State from 1841 to 1842. George Park did not enter extensively into the practice of law, his tastes and studies tending more to the Natural Sciences. He held the office of Surrogate from 1823 to 1833; was twice appointed Deputy County Clerk, and served as a Magistrate of the Town for many years. It is but a few weeks since we laid him in his grave, at the advanced age of 87 years—one of the last of the pioneer settlers.

Thomas G. Waterman was a member of the Assembly in 1824, and represented the 6th Senatorial District in the Senate of this State during the years 1827, 1828, 1829 and 1830. He likewise was District Attorney for a short time.

Peter Robinson was District Attorney from 1823 to 1831. He

represented the County in the Assembly for six years, from 1826 to 1831 inclusive. At the session of 1829 he was made Speaker of the House. He also was appointed Surrogate in 1821, performing the duties of this office about two years.

Daniel S. Dickinson's first public appearance was his election to the Senate of this State in 1836. He served his term of four years, and in 1842 was elected Lieut. Governor. In November, 1844, he was appointed by Gov. Bouck a Senator in Congress to fill the unexpired term of N. P. Tallmadge, and in February, 1845, was elected by the Legislature United States Senator for the full term, commencing the 4th of March following. He subsequently held the office of Attorney General of the State, and was holding the appointment of United States District Attorney for the Southern District of New York at the time of his death.

William Seymour resided in Windsor for many years. In 1833 he was appointed First Judge of the County, and removed to Binghamton. He was elected in 1834 a member of the 24th Congress, and served during the sessions of 1835 and 1836.

I have purposely omitted the name of William Stuart until now. He was a brother-in-law to DeWitt Clinton; was a lawyer by profession, a man of marked ability, was an officer in the army of the Revolution, and, as has been seen, early came to this place. His title of Judge came from the fact that he held the appointment of a Judge of Common Pleas for a time. The principal office which he held was that of District Attorney, an office somewhat different from the present one. At that time the State was divided into districts, seven in number. To each district an Attorney for the People was assigned, with the title of *District* Attorney. The district in which Broome County was situate was composed of the Counties of Tioga, Onon-

daga, Cayuga, Ontario, Steuben, Alleghany, Broome, Seneca, Genesee, Niagara, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus. Judge Stuart was appointed District Attorney for this district in 1802, and served until 1810 ; was reappointed in 1811, and was succeeded by Vincent Matthews in 1813. Since then this arrangement has been changed so that each county has a prosecuting officer, but the title by which he is designated remains as formerly.

While the lawyers generally and very naturally located at the place of holding courts, the pioneer medical men were found scattered among the settlements, in the vicinity of those who needed their services. In so doing they shared with the frontiersmen all the hardships, privations and inconveniences to which they were subjected ; and it may be claimed, felt them with more severity. Many of the pioneer medical men were well educated, and more or less accustomed to the refinements of cultivated society. The contrast, therefore, was the more appreciable and the more keenly felt.

The first physician of whom any knowledge can be obtained, who settled in this county, was Dr. Ozias Crampton. He located in what is now the town of Windsor, in 1791. Dr. Daniel A. Wheeler settled in the town of Chenango in 1793, but a few years after removed to Whitney's Point. Here he practiced his profession the remaining portion of his life. Dr. Chester Lusk came to the town of Union in 1800, and was the only physician in that part of the County for some years. The fate of Dr. Lusk illustrates some of the perils to which the early medical men were exposed. Returning from visiting a patient, during a very dark night, he was thrown from his carriage, and the injuries he received caused his death in a few days.

Dr. Isaiah Chapman came to the town of Lisle, now Triangle, in 1799. He and Dr. Wheeler were the only medical men in

the northern part of the County at this period. At Windsor, succeeding Dr. Crampton, was Dr. Enoch Alden, who settled there in 1799, and Dr. John Moore, who studied his profession in that place and received his license to practice from the Court of Common Pleas of Tioga County in 1799. Dr. Ezra Seymour also was licensed to practice in 1803, and I think resided in that part of Windsor which is now Colesville.

At Binghamton the earliest physician of any celebrity was Doctor Bartholomew. He was educated at Yale College, and came to Chenango Village about 1800. There were likewise, for a short time only, a Dr. Slocum and a Dr. Blanchard residing here. Dr. Bartholomew was soon re-inforced by Dr. Elihu Ely, who came here from Lyme, Conn., in 1805, and by Dr. Tracy Robinson in 1810, and by Dr. Ammi Doubleday in 1812. Neither of these gentlemen devoted their attention exclusively to their professional duties, but engaged in other pursuits. Dr. Robinson, in addition to other business than the practice of medicine, held the appointment of First Judge of the County for many years, and in that capacity administered law as well as physic to the people. Dr. Ely and Dr. Doubleday also engaged in other business. Dr. Ely opened a drug store, and afterwards a dry goods store. Dr. Doubleday engaged in various enterprises, but his attention was mostly directed to the purchase and sale of lands situate in the County.

Dr. Silas West removed to Binghamton in 1823. He devoted his whole attention to the practice of his profession, and followed it for many years. His son, Dr. Henry S. West, who was born and brought up in Binghamton, entered the service of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions as a Missionary physician, and was stationed at Sivas, in Turkey in Asia. Here he distinguished himself as a Surgeon, having performed the operation of lithotomy over one hundred and fifty

times. I am sorry to add that Dr. West died at Sivas on the 1st day of April of this Centennial year. Cotemporary with Dr. West at Binghamton were Dr. G. L. Spencer, at Triangle, and Dr. P. B. Brooks, at Lisle. Dr. Thomas Jackson came to Binghamton a few years later, about the year 1828. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and up to the time of his death, had been a resident of this place for more than thirty years. He was a successful practitioner, and commanded the respect and confidence of the entire community.

These were the early medical men of the County who for any length of time served the people as physicians in their remote and humble dwellings. The rides were long and tedious and could only be performed on horseback, and many times, in order to give the necessary attendance, the physician must be in the saddle for 24 hours or more continuously. The early physicians by their efforts in protecting the health of settlers, surely did their share in developing the country, and changing it from a wilderness to a productive and fertile region.

Neither were the settlements long without "the benefit of clergy." Many of the settlers before emigrating were religious people, and were accustomed to the duties and privileges of the church. But in the depths of the wilderness, among the remote settlements of the frontier, no such opportunity was had. "The sounding aisles of the wild wood" were the only temples of worship in which the people could assemble, and the voice of God could reach them only in the wind and in the storm. To establish the privileges of religious instruction, and to reclaim the "lost sheep of the House of Israel," was the task of the early pioneer clergymen.

The first clergyman on the ground whose name comes to us was the Rev. Mr. Howe, a Baptist. He came here prior to 1800,

and commenced the work of collecting the people and organizing a church. His efforts at first were successful, but did not continue so, for after an existence of a very few years his church became extinct.

There was a Rev. Mr. Palmer in this vicinity and in the vicinity of Union in the early days of the settlements. He was a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, and I think came here from New Jersey. He likewise became discouraged and disgusted in consequence of the failure of a church he had organized, and left the County, as I have been told, uttering anathemas against the valley of the Susquehanna and its settlers.

Rev. Seth Williston was in the settlements acting as a missionary to the people as early as 1797. He, I believe, was not permanently settled in any place, but labored wherever his services appeared to be the most needed. He spent considerable time at Lisle, organized the church in that place, and became its pastor for a number of years. This was about the year 1797, and was probably the earliest organization of the kind in this section of the country. His missionary labors extended over a wide region of the State, including that east of this County. I have a dim recollection of his being at my father's house, and of sitting upon his knee and listening to his words as he sought to adapt them to my childish comprehension. Mr. Williston was a good man, and of a high character in his profession.

There was likewise a Rev. Mr. Camp who visited, and I do not know but lived entirely in the settlements during the earlier years. He, however, had no charge of any church or society, nor did he have a stated or regular field of labor, but visited and officiated as opportunity offered.

A Congregational Church is reported as having been formed in Windsor in 1793, under the direction of Rev. Mr. Judd, but

whether it remained a permanent organization I do not know. Religious services were also conducted in 1793 in what is now Colesville, by Rev. Joseph Badger, and in 1799 St. Luke's Church (Episcopal) at Harpursville was organized. A Baptist Church at Upper Lisle is also mentioned as having been formed as early as 1802; and the Union Chapel (Methodist Episcopal) Society at East Randolph, in the Town of Windsor, in 1803. A Baptist Church was also organized and located at Harpursville in 1811. These appear to have been the earlier church organizations of the County. They originated sporadically, without any general effort or systematic labor.

It was not until about 1815, and during the fifteen years succeeding, that any thing like a general movement was instituted by the settlers to provide religious privileges and opportunities for themselves and their children. By this time the religious element had become greatly augmented, and the importance of public worship and the restraints of religious influences were acknowledged. In organizing church associations the various denominational differences were duly maintained. The people of the sparsely inhabited hamlets could not assemble together and collectively worship God. The different tenets of the Church of England, of Roger Williams, of John Wesley, or of John Calvin, were regarded by the partisans of each as of equal importance, or rather as constituting an essential portion of true religion. Consequently Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational societies were organized in different directions, oftentimes two or more in the same neighborhood or settlement. These differences of opinion in matters of faith were not always the most harmonious element among the people: they sometimes excited a spirit of rivalry and intolerance, and often engendered sentiments very far from those of Christian charity or of brotherly love. In this, the one hundredth year of

our National existence, it is proper to record the fact that much of the sectarian asperity of former years no longer exists.

In Binghamton in 1810 an Episcopal society was organized under the title of St. Ann's Church; but whether from indifference to the honor on the part of the patron saint, or from want of influence we cannot tell, but the society was soon dissolved. In 1816 it was re-organized under the name of Christ Church, and was the commencement of the present large and influential Episcopal society. The early rectors of Christ Church were Rev. James Keeler, Rev. F. H. Cumming, Rev. Mr. Gear, Nathaniel Huse, Rev. Hiram Adams and Rev. Mr. Shimeall. These gentlemen occupied the situation but a short time each. In 1836 Rev. Edward Andrews, D. D., became the rector and continued so for many years. He was an able, scholarly man, an eloquent preacher, and was largely instrumental in the prosperity of his parish. Dr. Andrews died a few years since. One of his successors, Rev. Chas. H. Platt, has followed him—dying here at his post, in the midst of his labors.

The present Presbyterian Church of Binghamton was organized in 1817, and the Rev. Mr. Niles was ordained and installed pastor of it in 1818. Mr. Niles remained in charge of the church until July, 1828, when he died. He was immediately succeeded by Rev. Peter Lockwood, who continued his pastoral relation until 1833. Following Mr. Lockwood came the Rev. John A. Nash, and in 1838, Rev. David D. Gregory became the pastor. He continued his labors for ten years—an earnest, sincere man. It is less than two years since his remains were deposited in Spring Forest Cemetery. Rev. John Humphrey succeeded Mr. Gregory and at his death, Rev. Wm. H. Goodrich of New Haven was called to the pastorate. He remained in charge a few years when he removed to Cleveland, Ohio. His health, however, becoming impaired, he finally went

abroad and died in Europe, I think upon the same day that Mr. Gregory died in Binghamton. The Presbyterians and Congregationalists had some men of more than ordinary strength in other parts of the County during this period. I may mention the names of Rev. Mr. Ward, of Union, Rev. Henry Ford, of Lisle, and afterwards of Maine, and Rev. Mr. Woodruff, of Chenango Forks. Mr. Ford was a man of signal ability and of a strong logical mind. His favorite themes were what are termed the "doctrines" of the Bible, and in tenacity of belief and in firmness in enforcing his views he must have been equal to Calvin himself. More than 35 years ago I listened to a discourse from him, directed to a church whose soundness on the "doctrines" had begun to be distrusted. His text was, "Whom He will He hardeneth." Every proposition advanced was sustained by copious quotations from the Scriptures, and at the close of every argument he would remark, "if you think these are 'hard sayings,' my brethren, I can only reply that they are found in the Bible; the words are not mine." Of all the clergymen whose names I have mentioned in connection with the Presbyterian Church in this County none are living except Rev. Mr. Lockwood. He still survives—the sun of his life setting tranquilly, a beloved and venerated father in his church.

We have already seen that the Baptists were early in the field, and that prior to 1815 they had societies in operation at Upper Lisle and at Harpursville. The Baptist Church at Binghamton was not organized until 1829—the Rev. Michael Frederick being its first pastor. The following are the next succeeding pastors of the Binghamton Baptist Church down to about the year 1836, viz: Revs. Jason Corwin, Henry Robertson, William Storrs, and J. M. Coley. The growth of this society through all the years since its organization has been continuous and uninterrupted.

The Methodist denomination has by no means acted an insignificant part in the religious movements which have been instituted in the County. Their itinerant ministers followed close upon the coming of the early settlers, and they penetrated every hamlet. We have already seen that a society was organized at East Randolph as early as 1803. Now, at the present day, their small white churches are to be seen in every direction, and are easily accessible to every neighborhood.

The first Methodist society in Binghamton was organized in 1817, and was generally known as the Henry Street M. E. Church. After a series of events continuing for many years, which it is not worth while to attempt to trace or to detail, this organization now finds itself possessed of the beautiful church edifice on Court street, which they built some years since, and which they have named the "Centenary M. E. Church," so called in commemoration of the introduction of Methodism in America, one hundred years before the year in which their church was erected, viz: 1869. Their membership and congregation are large. On account of the peculiar policy of this denomination in changing their preachers every two years, I am unable from want of space and time to give the names of those who have had this people in charge. One of the veteran preachers of this denomination, long a resident of Binghamton, and one of its early settlers, I may, however, mention. I refer to the late Rev. Solon Stocking, whose memory will be readily recalled by those who knew him in his life time, and who still survive him.

In 1835 Edward White, Esq., removed to Binghamton with his family, consisting of his wife, his wife's sister, Miss Griffin, and three daughters. They were all natives of Ireland, educated and refined. The Misses White and Griffin opened a boarding school for young ladies, which for many years was conducted successfully. This family were Roman Catholic in their re-

ligion, and it is believed was the first Roman Catholic family in the County. They set up the altar of their church, and commenced the worship of God according to its forms and ceremonies. This was the commencement of a Catholic mission, as it is termed, and has resulted in the large and widely diffused Catholic element throughout the County.

At first the mission was visited only at intervals by clergymen of the Roman Catholic faith, among whom was the late Father O'Reilly, then of Silver Lake, Pa. In 1843 or 1844 Bishop Hughes gave the Binghamton mission in charge to the Rev. A. Doyle, who was succeeded the following year by the Rev. John Sheridan, and, owing to his removal to Owego, the Rev. James Hourigan, the present pastor, was appointed in July, 1847. The work of Father Hourigan was to visit, become acquainted with and bring under the influences of the church all the scattered members of its faith within a territory extending, in some directions a distance of 50 miles. For the last 29 years he has thus been engaged, and a most indefatigable worker he has proved. In addition to the public ministration of the word, and the common or ordinary parochial duties of a clergyman, the Roman Church requires its priests to attend, if not utterly impossible, whenever summoned to visit a dying member, for the purpose of administering the last rites appointed for such occasions. This duty necessarily imposes a greatly increased amount of labor upon the priest, for no inclemency of weather, nor darkness of night, nor distance even, nor all combined, can excuse him if he should not make every effort to attend. Possessed of a vigorous frame, and earnestly devoted to his work, Father Hourigan has rarely failed to perform his whole duty. There is not an hour of the day or night that I have not seen him, at some period during the last twenty-five years, by the bed side of some one of his people, to administer to them the consolations of their faith.

The Catholic congregation in this place is large. Three several masses are said on every Sunday morning during each of which the spacious church is crowded with a different set of worshipers.

The foregoing reference to the churches in Binghamton embraces all of the original or primary religious organizations of the place.

The Congregational Church was formed in 1836 by the process of reproduction described by naturalists as *fission* or *fissiparous generation*. The parent body divides, a new organism is produced, which becomes possessed of individual life and capable of a separate existence. The original members of the Congregational Church were all members of the Presbyterian Church, and separated from it to organize and form what has since proved to be a most efficient and independent living body.

The process has been repeated twice since in the parent body, and within a few years, giving origin to the North Presbyterian Church and later to the West Presbyterian Church.

The same has also taken place in the parent Methodist Church, and the Main Street Tabernacle and the High Street M. E. Churches are the products.

Christ Church, in Binghamton, has likewise given to the world in this manner the Church and the House of the Good Shepherd, situate in the Fifth Ward.

There is a Free Methodist Church of Binghamton, organized in 1862, its place of worship being the corner of Court and Carroll streets. Two Colored Churches also exist in Binghamton, viz: the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, organized in 1836, and the African Methodist Episcopal Bethel Church, organized in 1838.

In the Town of Binghamton, at Hawleyton, there are two Churches, a Methodist Episcopal and a Presbyterian; and in the vicinity of the Asylum there exists a Reformed Protestant Episcopal Society.

In Barker there are three churches—a Congregational at Chenango Forks, the Adams Street Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barker.

Chenango has the First Methodist Episcopal Society at Chenango Forks, a Baptist Church at Castle Creek, a Methodist Episcopal Church at Castle Creek, and at Kattleville and at Glen Castle.

In Colesville there are St. Luke's (Episcopal) Church, the First Baptist Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church at Harpursville, the First Methodist Episcopal Church at New Ohio, the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church at Nineveh, the Baptist Church at West Colesville, the Methodist Episcopal Church at Onaquaga, the Free Church at Cole's Hill, and the Methodist Episcopal Church at Osborn Hollow.

In Conklin there are three churches—First Baptist Church, situate on the river, near the center of the town: the Methodist Episcopal Church, on Little Snake Creek, and the Presbyterian Church at Conklin Station, or Millburn.

Fenton has three churches—a Baptist Church and a Methodist Episcopal Church at Port Crane, and a Methodist Episcopal Church at North Fenton.

Kirkwood has two churches—a Methodist Episcopal Church at Kirkwood Village, and a Christian Church, two miles down the river.

In Lisle there are a Methodist Episcopal Church and a Con-

gregational Church at Lisle Village, and a Baptist Church and Methodist Episcopal Church at Killawog.

In the town of Maine there are seven churches—a Methodist Episcopal Church at Union Center; a Congregational Church, a Baptist Church and a Methodist Episcopal Church at Maine Village; a Methodist Episcopal Church at North Maine, a Presbyterian Church at East Maine, and the Abbott Methodist Episcopal Church.

Nanticoke has four churches—a Methodist Episcopal Church and a Christian Church at Glen Aubrey, and a Baptist Church and a Methodist Episcopal Church at Lamb's Corners.

Sanford has three religious societies—a Baptist Church in the north part of the town, a Free Will Baptist Church and a Methodist Episcopal Church in another direction.

It is but just to remark here that the religious character of the citizens of our County who live at Deposit, ought not to be reflected upon or suffer in any way because no churches or church organizations have been mentioned as existing there. There are, as is well known, several churches and church edifices at Deposit, and that the citizens of that place are regular in their attendance on public worship. But it so happens that the line between this County and Delaware County passes through the center of the village, and that all the church buildings are on the other side of the line. Consequently they are without the limits of Broome, and could not properly be included in this sketch. Our citizens residing at Deposit have their homes and transact their secular business in their own County, but their devotions and their religious acts are all performed in the County of Delaware.

Triangle numbers thirteen churches, viz: The First Baptist Church and the Universalist Church at Upper Lisle; Baptist

Church and Methodist Episcopal Church at Triangle; Methodist Episcopal Church, Baptist Church, First Congregational Church, Grace Church, and the Catholic Mission, at Whitney's Point; First Baptist Church at Hazard's Corners, and Congregational Church at Triangle.

Union has four churches—a Presbyterian Church, a Methodist Episcopal Church and a Protestant Episcopal Church at the village, and a Congregational Church at Union Center.

Vestal has five churches—a Methodist Episcopal Church at Vestal; a Baptist Church at Vestal Center; a Methodist Episcopal Church and two Reformed Methodist Churches at Tracy Creek.

Windsor has eight churches—the Union Chapel at East Randolph, Methodist Episcopal Church at East Windsor, Baptist Church at Randolph Center, Christian Advent Church at Wilmot Settlement, First Wesleyan Church at Hazardville, Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church at East Randolph, Zion Episcopal Church at Windsor, and First Free Methodist Episcopal Church at Windsor Village.

From the summary of church organizations now given, it is evident how great an advance has been made in all that pertains to the religious culture and improvement of the people of this County during the first century of our national existence. The numerous church organizations which on all sides are to be met with, indicate that amidst all the excitements and the engrossing cares of life, there is yet a strong element in the human character which impels man to make preparation for the life that is to come.

For a period of sixty years next succeeding the first settlements, the leading interest and the staple production of the County was its lumber. In almost every section and especially

along the several streams were extensive tracts, thickly covered with pine timber. As this was the only product that could be taken to a market, and as it usually commanded a ready sale, the manufacture of lumber became the leading business of the County, and the timber lands were first sought after and taken up. There seemed to be no other way to obtain money but by the sale of pine boards. Hence in every section saw mills were in active operation, the clearing up of the forests was in a measure suspended, and every energy was directed to the manufacture of lumber. It was marketed by floating it down the river; whenever by reason of rains, or the melting of the snow in the spring, the river had sufficient water to float the lumber when made into rafts. During the fall and winter the pine trees were fallen, cut into the proper length, and drawn to the mills. Such mills as had sufficient water to run the entire year, were stocked with a quantity enough to keep them in operation all the time. The lumber sawed into boards was piled upon the bank of the river in some convenient place. Of course when manufactured at mills remote from the river it had to be drawn there by teams. All these operations kept a good many men in employment. The lumberman was a person *sui generis*. To him, the sun rose and set solely to enable him to work a pine tree into boards. As a species of the human race, the lumberman has in this vicinity become extinct, as have also the pine trees themselves.

But the great carnival of the lumberman, the season of the most absorbing interest of all others, was the rafting season; when everything else was laid aside, and all hands were turned to, to construct the rafts and to prepare for the trip down the river. The trip down the river sometimes extended south as far as Norfolk, Va., and was an excursion which every young man must of necessity make. These trips

abounded in adventure, the narration of which relieved the monotony of the remaining portion of the year. The perils of running the various dams, the Towanda, the Nanticoke and the Shemokin chutes, and likewise the Connawaug Falls, were rehearsed in the most glowing styles to ready and imaginative listeners.

This class of people were a hardy and enduring set of men, but more or less irregular in their course of life, and seldom laying up or saving property. Among all of the early lumbermen, very few at the expiration of 20 years of hard work, were any better off, or had much of property left.

It was the practice to anticipate the avails of their yearly labor. Some merchant under an arrangement made, would advance to and supply the manufacturer of lumber, with all the necessary means of subsistence for the family and teams, also the wages of the laborers out of the store, all to paid for from the receipts of the lumber when sold. Many of the merchants likewise bought smaller lots of lumber, paying for it out of the store, and in this way became largely engaged in the trade.

The disadvantages of such a system of doing business, are apparent. The merchant must necessarily impose a greater profit upon his goods, thereby increasing the cost to the consumer, while the uncertainty as to when returns would be received, and the not unfrequent failure of men engaged in the business, entailed losses that quite often more than counteracted the increased profits. But it was the way, and perhaps the only way that business could be conducted. Every business arrangement was to be consummated, every note was payable, when the "rafts got back." Land was cheap, and was bought up in tracts of considerable size, which subsequently became the source of great wealth to the proprietors.

I have already remarked that the lumberman constituted a species of the genus man, *sui generis*. This species can now only be seen in the northern part of Michigan and in the pineries of the upper Mississippi. They had a vocabulary peculiarly their own, and were one of them to return here at the present day, there would be a generation entirely ignorant of his language, and would be as surprised and confounded at hearing the terms of "panel," "common," "culls," "sample culls," "oar stems," "oar blades," "grubs," "platforms," "stiffening poles," &c., &c., as was Rip Van Winkle when, returning from his protracted repose in the Catskills, he first heard of "Bunker Hill," "Spirit of '76," "Geo. Washington," "the Continental Congress," &c., which to him seemed an unintelligible jargon.

There is also another fact that may be recorded here. During the process of getting off the lumber, agriculture was sadly neglected, and the country had a most slovenly appearance. The land from which the pine timber had been removed was grown up to brush—no fences, no signs of improvement, and no cultivation. That this had the effect to retard the improvement of the County, and to delay its development as an agricultural section, which it now eminently is, cannot be denied. There was no attention paid to the cultivation of the land until the last pine tree had fallen.

There was another cause which delayed the settlement of the County, and which diverted the current of emigration that for a time was directed strongly towards it. In a note addressed to me by Virgil Whitney, Esq., with a view to aid me in the preparation of this sketch, he refers to this cause in the following language: "Before the opening of the Erie Canal, the County of Broome was filling up with inhabitants very rapidly, but the opening was a complete stoppage, and it became a very rare event for a new settler to come into the village or County.

It then became apparent how isolated this section was. They had plenty to eat, but no exchange or sale, consequently no wealth, no fashions, no distinctions, but strange to say, more real content, more real religion, and more character as a community."

The foregoing sketch brings us down in the history of Broome County to about the year 1836. It was then that the County first received the benefit of what was then termed the system of internal improvements, by the construction of the Chenango Canal. This was the first *impetus* to further advancement which the County had received.

The building of the Erie Canal had for many years before engrossed the attention of the people of the State, and when it became a fact accomplished and a water communication was really established between Lake Erie and the Hudson River, the clamor came from on both sides of the main Canal for lateral or side canals which should connect with the Erie. This policy was adopted by the State, and the construction of the Crooked Lake Canal, the Seneca Lake Canal, the Chemung Canal, the Chenango Canal, and the Black River Canal was the result. The people interested in these several measures insisted upon their completion with great pertinacity, while those not particularly affected by these measures began to think that the State was too lavish in its expenditures for work of internal improvement. This question became one of the leading elements in every election, and for many years the politics of this County, as well as others, were controlled by the question of the completion of the Chenango Canal. It was this pertinacity and clamor, and uncontrollable determination that vexed the late Mr. Samuel Young, of Saratoga, into the declaration that the people of this section of the State were a set of "sturdy beggars." Notwithstanding all the opposition encountered, the Chenango

Canal was constructed, and it let the "dark out" of this previously sequestered region, and opened it to the outer world. This was in 1837.

The completion of the Chenango Canal again attracted the attention of emigrants, and once more the tide began to flow towards this part of the State. The value of property was much increased. The lands from which the pine timber had been removed were now sold as farms, and the cultivation of the soil was commenced in earnest. Freights and transportation were low, and a sure market could always be relied upon. This, of course, gave encouragement to the raising of farm products, and the number of farms under cultivation soon began to multiply.

Twelve years later the Erie Railway was completed to Binghamton, and two years afterwards was extended to Lake Erie. The construction of the road placed the County of Broome in direct communication with New York City, and on one of the principal through routes from the Atlantic to the great west. The County, now no longer sequestered and remote, became easily accessible, and the increase of its population corresponded to its increased facilities. The further completion of the Delaware, Lackawana & Western Railroad, the Syracuse & Binghamton Railroad, the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, and the Chenango Valley or Utica Railroad, which followed one after another in a few years, brought the County within the focus of a railroad center. There are but three Towns in the County that have no railroad passing through them. The aggregate assessed valuation of all the railroads in the several Towns upon which taxes are paid is $1,087,353. All these advantages have had their effect—the price of lands has largely increased, the farming interest throughout the entire County is the prevailing interest, and the population of the County is to-day still increasing in numbers.

In 1810 the entire population of what is now the County of Broome was only 6,524; in 1875 its inhabitants numbered 47,913. The increase of population in the County for the last five years is about 4,000. In 1830 the population numbered 17,570; in 1840, 22,338; in 1850, 30,660; in 1860, 35,906, and in 1870, 44,103. These figures indicate the steady, uniform growth of our County.

Another fact may be mentioned which illustrates not only the increase of our population, but of business also. In 1811 there were but eight post offices in the County, then including Owego and Berkshire. Ten years after an office was established here, it was kept by Wm. Woodruff in the second story of the toll house, near the Chenango bridge. But for the purposes of delivery no office was necessary, as all the mail matter of a week might have been carried in the Postmaster's hat. Now, I am informed by Jas. H. Bartlett, Esq., Assistant Postmaster, that 7,000 letters are daily handled in the office, besides the mass of papers, magazines and pamphlets which are likewise distributed. The revenue of the office to the government annually is over $27,000. The number of post offices now in the County is about sixty.

The first mail route through this section was from Catskill to Newtown. The mail was carried on horseback, and arrived once in two weeks. As the population increased, other facilities became necessary, and in 1810 there was a mail from the east, the west and the north, brought on horseback once a week. In later years, and up to the time of building the Erie Railway, there were three principal stage routes from the central portion of the State to New York City, viz: a route from Ithaca to Catskill, running through the northern part of this County: another from Geneva, via Ithaca, Owego, Binghamton, Great Bend and Monticello to Newburg; and a third from Owego

through Montrose to Jersey City. The late Maj. Augustus Morgan, Isaac Tompkins and Sidney T. Robinson had extensive interests in these routes, and for many years were engaged in the transportation of the mails, and the carrying of passengers. These several lines constituted the only routes by which travelers could take a public conveyance to the City of New York: and then it was a ride of two days and one night to reach that city from Binghamton. The New York papers were received here the third day after publication; now, the morning's news arrives at 2 P. M., and is read in Binghamton as early in the day as it is by some of the residents of New York. The old Newburg Stage Company, that run that route for many years, was composed of the following gentlemen: Lewis Manning, Augustus Morgan, Sidney T. Robinson, Henry S. Jarvis, Wm. McLaury, Samuel Dimmick, Capt. Hamilton and Halsey Sweet.

In the most active period of staging, the average daily number of passengers out of Binghamton could not have exceeded *twenty*. I am informed by Mr. Arthur Tileston, the ticket agent at the railway station in this city, that the average number of persons daily purchasing tickets at the several railways, and leaving the city by cars, will exceed *four hundred*.

The first newspaper attempted to be published in this section was commenced at Union Village in 1800, but who the publisher was, or how long it remained in existence, I am not informed. In 1812 Chauncey Morgan commenced the publication of the *Broome County Patriot* at Binghamton. In 1815 it was changed, in its name, at least, to that of the *Phœnix*, and was conducted by Maj. Augustus Morgan and Dr. Tracy Robinson. In 1819 it was discontinued and the *Republican Herald* was commenced, and successively published by Morgan & Howard, Abraham Burrell, and Dorelus Abbey.

The *Broome Republican* was established at Binghamton in 1822 by Maj. Augustus Morgan. It was afterwards published as a weekly paper by Morgan & Canoll, by Evans & Canoll, by Canoll & Cooke, by Davis & Cooke, by F. B. Penniman and by E. B. Colston, until about 1849, when it was purchased by Wm. Stuart, Esq. Mr. Stuart commenced the publication of a daily paper, and continued it for some years, when the establishment was sold to Malette & Reid. The paper is now owned by an association, and its publication is vigorously and ably sustained.

The *Binghamton Democrat* is the product of a union of the *Broome County Courier*, a weekly paper commenced in 1831 by J. R. Orton, and the *Broome County Democrat*, which was established in 1847. The two papers were purchased by J. R. Dickinson, Esq., the name changed to the *Binghamton Democrat*, and was conducted by Mr. Dickinson for some years, when at length it became the property of the present proprietors, Messrs. W. S. & G. L. Lawyer. They have also for a number of years published the *Daily Democrat*.

The *Binghamton Standard* was first issued in 1853, by Jas. VanValkenburg, and continued under different proprietors until 1870, when it was consolidated with the *Republican*. The *Iris*, the *Susquehanna Journal*, and one or two other papers, were commenced at different times, but their publication was not long continued. At Union, the *Union News* has been established for more than twenty years, and is still being published. At Whitney's Point the *Broome Gazette* was commenced in 1858, but this has been discontinued and its place supplied by the *Nioga Reporter*, published by M. B. Eldredge. At Deposit, although the publication office is just over the line in Delaware County, the *Courier* is entitled to be regarded as in part belonging to Broome. The *Binghamton Times* is of a much more recent origin, although a very efficient and well-

conducted morning paper. The foregoing will give one an idea of the number and variety of the newspapers that have been published within the County since its organization. But these publications by no means indicate the extent of the reading of daily papers in this community. More than five hundred New York daily newspapers are sold in Binghamton alone each day, besides large numbers of foreign weekly journals, and Binghamton now is only a fraction of the reading community of Broome County.

The first telegraph line connecting with Binghamton was put up, I think, in 1849. It connected this place with Oswego by the way of Owego and Ithaca. Not long after, under the direction of the late Mr. Ezra Cornell, a line was erected from Ithaca through Owego, Binghamton, Montrose, Carbondale, Honesdale, and on to New York. The Erie Railway Company did not at first employ the telegraph in the management of their road, but ran their trains by printed instructions to the conductors for three or four years.

We have now telegraph lines in every direction, along all of the railroads, besides the wires of the Western Union Company. The increase of telegraphic business I have not been able to obtain; but that it corresponds favorably with the increase in the number of letters and other mail matter I have no doubt. No daily paper is now complete without daily dispatches from all sections of the country.

I have already remarked that when the lumber had all been taken off, the people began to turn their attention to their farms, and that now farming is the leading interest of the County. This has wrought a most decided change in its general appearance. Instead of slovenly, neglected lots of land, without fences or comfortable buildings, the County in every direction presents an aspect of the highest cultivation. The farm houses and.

barns within the last thirty years have been almost entirely rebuilt, and the fields formerly grown up to brush and briars produce to their owners an ample crop of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, &c. The most extensive farm product of our County is butter. Almost every farm produces more or less of this article for sale. I have no means of knowing the quantity of butter shipped to other markets from this County. That it is large I cannot doubt, while our own City consumes no inconsiderable quantity each day.

The assessed valuation of the real estate in Broome County for 1875 was $7,326,303.00.

The manufactured products of the County at the present day form no small or insignificant item. A gentleman well versed in the business has furnished me with an estimate of the aggregate amount of leather manufactured, sold and exported from the County every year. He estimates the entire amount as not being less than one million, five hundred thousand dollars ($1,500,000.)

I am indebted to Benj. DeVoe, Esq., Collector of United States Revenue for this District, for certain statistics in relation to the single article of tobacco manufactured in this City alone under the various forms in which it is consumed. The statistics refer only to the City of Binghamton, and while we have in mind that this City is the central point of the County, it must likewise be remembered that there are other points within the County where this article is manufactured. So that the report of Mr. DeVoe even may not include all of this article exported from the County of Broome.

The number of cigars manufactured in the City of Binghamton during the year 1875 was 10,700,000. The value of these cigars is reported at $500,000.

The aggregate value of the tobacco otherwise manufactured in this City during the same time was $130,000.

The manufacture of boots and shoes in the City of Binghamton amounts to at least $600,000 worth of exports each year.

The Jones Scale Works employs one hundred men, and the annual product of the manufacture of scales at this establishment amounts to $500,000.

The manufactory of earthern ware of Wm. Roberts sells about $20,000 worth of pottery every year.

The establishment of Messrs. J. P. Noyes & Brother for the manufacture of a single variety of horn combs is quite extensive, and employs a large number of men. The work is performed by machinery of a very *unique* and ingenious character, the invention of one or of both the proprietors. Five thousand gross of combs are shipped from this establishment annually, and their value amounts to $50,000.

A company has recently been organized for the manufacture of children's carriages, sleighs and velocipedes, under the title of the Winton Manufacturing Company. This company sold thirty thousand sleighs and about five thousand carriages during the year 1875. The entire value of articles manufactured by this company within the year is about $60,000.

There are likewise many private enterprises carried on, not only in Binghamton but in every part of the County, in addition to those already alluded to, which not only employ numbers of men but add materially to the amount and value of the aggregate of manufactured products. Numerous carriage making establishments, furniture factories, foundries and ready-made clothing houses are to be found carrying forward business and transforming crude material into useful articles and real

wealth. One clothing house in Binghamton manufactures and sells ready-made clothing to the amount of $250,000 annually.

There were no banking institutions in this County until 1831, when the Broome County Bank was chartered. It was organized under the old Safety Fund law, and continued its operations until the expiration of its charter, when it reorganized under a later law of the State, and subsequently it came under the National General Banking Law of the United States. Its capital is $100,000. This was the only banking capital in the County for many years.

The Binghamton Bank was organized December, 1838, with an alleged capital of $100,000, and immediately went into operation. It, however, existed but two or three years, when it failed, and its affairs were wound up.

The Bank of Binghamton was organized under the General Banking Law of this State in July, 1852, with a capital of $100,000, which has since been increased to $200,000. After the passage of the National Banking Law, and when it was evident that this was the settled policy of the Government, the Bank of Binghamton organized anew, and is now known as the City National Bank of Binghamton.

The Susquehanna Valley Bank also was organized under the General Banking Law of the State in January, 1855. Its capital is $100,000. This bank retains its original organization, and is one of the few State Banks now in existence.

The First National Bank of Binghamton was organized under the General or National Banking Law in December, 1863. It was the first National Bank chartered here. Its capital originally was $100,000, but has since been increased to $200,000.

The Merchants' National Bank, with a capital of $100,000,

is the last bank organized in this City. Its organization was effected in January, 1874.

The aggregate amount of bank capital, with the surplus on hand, in the several banks will exceed one million of dollars. There is probably an equal amount held on deposit by the several banks, and also a large amount by the Savings Banks. On the 1st instant (July 1st, 1876,) the aggregate amount of loans and discounts of all the banks was $1,515,536.

There are no distilleries in the County. There are rectifying establishments in the City, where alcohol is transformed into the various forms in which it is drank by the consumers ; but I do not know of any place within the bounds of the County of Broome where grain of any kind, the product of the earth and the food of man, is subjected to the process of transformation into alcohol. What we drink, therefore, we import, and it may be a satisfaction to many to know that not a dollar of the increased wealth of the County is owing to the distillation of grain into ardent spirits, within its boundaries.

The County of Broome has never been wanting in patriotic impulses, nor dilatory in the discharge of patriotic duties. During the war with Great Britain in 1812–3, it sent its citizens to the field to repel an invasion by British troops. In the war with Mexico, the County was represented not only by private soldiers in the ranks of the army, but by the present Gen. John C. Robinson, who, with U. S. Grant and others since distinguished, was a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army, under Gen. Taylor, at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, on the 8th and 9th of May, 1846, and who served in Mexico during the entire war.

When the rebellion of 1861 broke out, not a month had

elapsed after the firing upon Fort Sumpter before three full companies, from Binghamton and vicinity, were at the rendezvous, and were soon after incorporated into the 27th regiment N. Y. S. Volunteers.

I learn from Capt. E. C. Kattel, late Provost Marshal of this District, that *four thousand, four hundred and fifty-four* men were sent from the County of Broome during the war, and that in bounties and for other purposes connected with the objects of the war, the County contributed the sum of *one million, four hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars*. ($1,426,000.)

This sketch would be incomplete were I to omit to notice a public institution, located in our vicinity. I refer to the NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM.

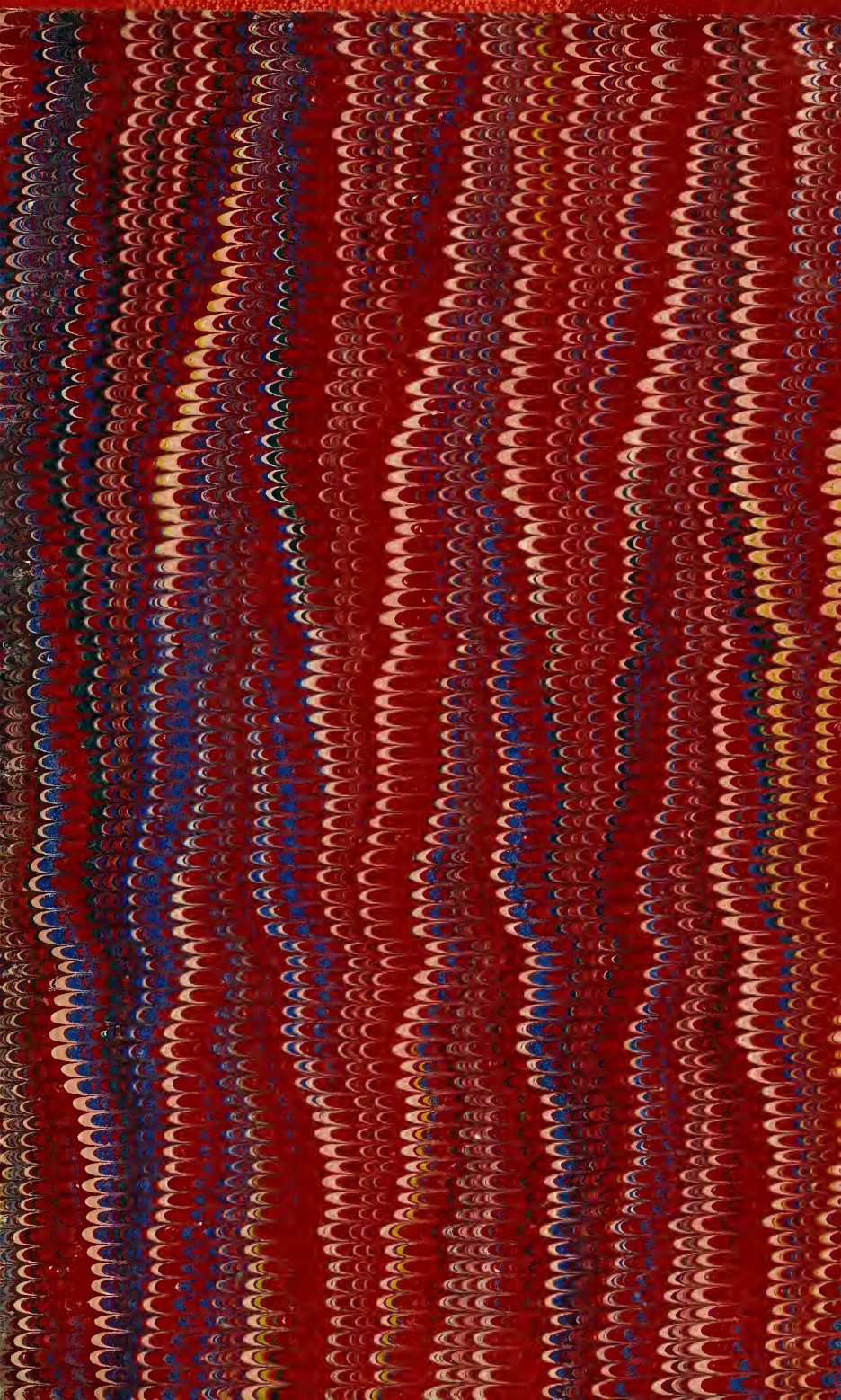
This institution was founded and built, and is now conducted, in the full belief that the condition of the system which calls for the the excessive use of alcoholic simulants, and which so many are unable to resist, is a morbid condition: and that this condition is amenable to treatment, and can be successfully combated. It is the first institution of the kind ever projected. The results have fully met the expectations of its founders, and returns establish the fact that at least 50 per cent. of the inmates of the institution are restored to useful pursuits, to society and to the world, through its instrumentality.

In conclusion, my fellow citizens, I can only remark that our devout acknowledgments are due to the Great Disposer of all events—to Him who holds the destiny of nations in his hands, for his safe guidance, his watchful protection and his great deliverance of the people during the first century of our existence as a nation.

May the same Providence on which our forefathers placed

such "firm reliance," continue its protecting care in directing the counsels of succeeding generations; and may that which "exalteth a nation" ever be the leading characteristic of our people.





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